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SENATOR THURMOND CALLS FOR OPEN BIG FOUR CONFERENCE
IN CINCINNATI SPEECH

CINCINNATI, Ohio - Senator Strom Thurmond (D-SC) declared in a speech here that the "United States should insist that the meetings at the conference of the Big Four should be open to all news media."

"The peoples of the world whose fate is at stake have the right to know all the Big Four does," he asserted in a virtual re-statement of Woodrow Wilson's plea in World War I for "open covenants, openly arrived at."

Senator Thurmond addressed the annual banquet meeting of the American Bar Association's Big Seven Regional Meeting held Friday night in Cincinnati.

"Our experience in the realm of international affairs has, or should have, taught us that preparedness is a prime requisite for dealing with nations that are apparently less concerned with peace than we are," he said. As a warning he added, "We should temper our optimism with the salt of past experience" when dealing with the Russians.

Expressing confidence in the efforts of President Eisenhower to do everything possible to "lead us on the road to enduring peace," the South Carolina Democrat declared that we must be realistic regarding the possible results of the Big Four conference.

"The United States and a world that desires lasting peace would gain nothing if we go into the Big Four meeting expecting too much; and consequently, concede too much, in an effort to arrive at an agreement which in the end might be worse than no agreement at all," he stated.

The Senator pointed out that "we cannot prevent the Soviets from breaking the agreements they make with us and other nations," but, he continued, "we can and must establish safeguards around the conference to make certain the world knows just what is agreed to at the meeting, or why no decision is reached, if none is."

"Military security is the one justification for secrecy" at such a meeting, he said, and "military security is not a consideration at the Big Four meeting."

The South Carolinian reviewed relations between the United States and Russia from World War I when the Bolsheviks seized the Russian government up to the present. He cited the many agreements made with us and other nations that have been broken by the Soviets.

Particularly he emphasized the importance of care in dealing with the Russians on the question of atomic energy, warning that only through a program of international inspection could we hope to control atomic development under a commission of the United Nations.

Other points emphasized by Senator Thurmond were:

1. "We must not be led into making concessions which might be construed to violate any of the agreements or treaties to which we are a party.
2. "We must not agree to any new agreements which have any possibility of being labeled as appeasement."
3. "We should not consider the admission of Red China to membership in the United Nations."
4. "We must call again on Russia to join us in restoring unity and political self-determination to Germany, Korea and the satellite nations."

The Senator also warned against being grateful to the Communists for the release of the American airmen, pointing out the slaughter of Americans in the Korean war which the Reds prolonged by their active participation.

He said that Soviet leaders' recent meeting with Tito provided "little to comfort the United States."